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ENGLISH PHONETICS

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Lesson 30
Aspirated vs. Unaspirated

Listen to the words.

pat

tap

Listen and discuss.



Aspirated Sounds

These are produced with a noticeable release of breath or a puff of air. They occur at the beginning of a word or stressed syllable.

Aspirated Sounds

/p/

p^hit

p^hen

app^hly

pap^haya

/k/

ch^hat

ch^hool

k^hite

acc^hount

/t/

th^hen

th^hoy

at^homic

pot^hato

Listen and discuss.



Unaspirated Sounds

These are produced **without a noticeable release of breath** or a **puff of air**. They can occur at the **beginning, middle,** or **end** of a word or syllable.

The voiceless sounds /p/, /k/, and /t/ are unaspirated when they appear **after the letter 's'** or at the **end** of a syllable or word.

/p/

tap

cup

spot

/k/

ski

pick

park

/t/

net

pet

star

Vowels and diphthongs are **unaspirated**.

ant
egg
ink
owl
uncle

rain
soil
eight
house
caught

Aspirated Sounds

produced with a noticeable release of breath

voiceless sounds /p/, /k/, and /t/ at the beginning of a word or stressed syllable

Unaspirated Sounds

produced without a noticeable release of breath

/p/, /k/, and /t/ after 's' at the end of a word or syllable

vowels, diphthongs, and all voiced consonants

Listen, repeat, and then read.

p^hat

p^hark

k^hid

k^hit

t^hell

spat

spark

skid

tick

let

Identify if the underlined letters have
aspirated or **unaspirated** sounds.

A

U

1 cute

A

U

5 toy

A

U

2 truckck

A

U

6 dog

A

U

3 pply

A

U

7 pair

A

U

4 speech

A

U

8 table

Tell if the sentence is True or False.

- 1 The word **nap** has an **aspirated /p/**.
- 2 The word **could** has an **aspirated /k/**.
- 3 The word **tea** has an **aspirated /t/**.
- 4 The word **party** has an **unaspirated /p/**.
- 5 The word **sparkle** has an **unaspirated /p/**.

Listen and do the pronunciation tip.

Paper Challenge!

Take a piece of paper and place it in front of your mouth. Say 'pat'. The paper should move when it is **aspirated**. Now, say the word 'tap'. The paper shouldn't move when it is **unaspirated**. Try more examples!





TONGUE TWISTER!

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked. If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?



WELL DONE!

**Pronunciation Rule:
Aspirated vs. Unaspirated**